

A REVIVAL PSALM
Thursday, May 10
Reading: Psalm 69:1-18

Psalm 69:7 For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face...9 for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

When you hear the word “revival” what comes to your mind? Theologian J. I. Packer described it this way:

"Christians in revival are accordingly found living in God's presence (Coram Deo), attending to His Word, feeling acute concern about sin and righteousness, rejoicing in the assurance of Christ's love and their own salvation, spontaneously constant in worship, and tirelessly active in witness and service, fueling these activities by praise and prayer." ¹

When God revives His people others take notice, lives are transformed, and God’s kingdom grows. However, there is another result of revival that we don’t often think about - persecution.

In Psalm 69, David is experiencing revival in his life. He is getting serious about sin and repenting in sackcloth, fasting, and tears (69:5, 10-11). He expresses a zeal for worship in God’s House (69:9). He is committed to prayer and living in God’s love and mercy (69:13, 16-17). He will end this psalm with a chorus of praise telling what God has done (69:30-36). All these are marks of true revival.

And what results does David record? His enemies persecute him to the point that he feels he is sinking and about to go under (69:1-2). He endures scorn “for Your sake” (69:7) so that even his family has abandoned him (69:8). His zeal for God’s house brings insults (69:9). His acts of prayer and confession are laughed at and ridiculed (69:10-12). This treatment drives David to cry to the Lord to save him (69:13-18).

When revival comes, when people get serious about God and begin to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, our enemy doesn’t like it! Satan and the evil world system under his control will respond to revival with hatred and oppression.

Look at the church in the book of Acts. Thousands were being saved every day. The church was growing like wildfire. The believers were committed to Christ and to each other (Acts 2-3). This brought down the wrath first of the religious leaders who had condemned Jesus (Acts 4-7). Eventually the political powers got involved (Acts 12). And ultimately the full force of the Roman Empire came against the church. Yet the revival continued. In fact it flourished!

Even today the places where the church is most persecuted are the places where revival is the strongest. Places like China, Russia, and Muslim countries are seeing an explosion of revival among those who the world are trying to suppress. As we seek revival in our own lives and churches, let us be prepared. When God moves in revival our enemy will try to squash it! We must respond like the early church did and pray for boldness to resist the enemy and continue to live and share His Word (Acts 4:23-31). Then watch what God will do!

¹ <https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-topic/quotes-about-revival/#axzz5EGDuEqQc>

THRU THE BIBLE Reading: 2 Samuel 19-21; Acts 5